# THE MORNING BEE

# MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., Publisher N. B. UPDIKE, President
JOY M. HACKLER. Editor in Chief.

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Entered as second-class matter May 28, 1908, at Omaha postoffice under act of March 3, 1879.

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#### FRANCE LOOKS AT FRENCH CLAIMS.

While the debt experts are in Germany, examining the situation at Berlin, the French authorities are beginning to look into matters at home. Premier Poincare has not entirely emerged from a stubborn fight over the budget, which entails a still heavier rate of taxation for the French people, already grievously burdened. Much of this hangs on the failure to collect in full from Germany the amount of the French claim of something like \$32,000,-000,000

Anticipating the collection of indemnity, the French government set about feverishly to reconstruct the devastated areas, and has made commendable progress in this direction. It has involved the liberal and almost prodigal expenditure of money, accompanied by what is now growing into a suspicion that all is not wisely nor even well done.

M. Riebel, minister for the liberated area, has just brought into the chamber of deputies a request that all French claims for damages above 500,000 francs be re-examined. He charges that the chairman of the committee of the chamber that has handled these matters has been unduly liberal in allowing claims. The chairman retorts that it is a difference of opinion between himself and the minister, but the premier is inclined to take the minister's

Should it be determined, after inquiry, that these big French bills for damage have been stretched, then the wisdom of the Dawes committee will be plainer than ever. One of the principal blunders of the peacemakers was the assessing of the enormous indemnity against the Germans without full and careful investigation as to what was due. The total sum was made big enough, but, as Keynes pointed out at the time, it was fixed on ex parte evidence or no evidence at all, and ought not to be allowed to stand. The basis for settlement should be justice, not passion, and there was too much passion at Paris and Versailles five years ago.

The situation in the French chamber is encouraging, for it gives reason to think that the gallant nation is coming to its senses. The reduction in the army bill, a determination to contract the budget as much as possible, and a full re-examination of war indemnity claims, looks like the turn in the road. The collapse of the franc convinced Poincare, as it did all on the outside, that France must find a way back or be lost in the morass that swamped Russia and Germany in a flood of worthless paper money. These are lessons of hard teaching, but worth remembering.

# ANDERSON KNEW BETTER.

Now and then a jury turns up whose members are skeptical when it comes to miracles. They have been told all about Santa Claus and the like, and have become hard-boiled, so to speak. One of these juries listened to the tale told by William H. Anderson, head of the Anti-Saloon league in New York. Also they listened to witnesses for the state. On the testimony and evidence submitted, the jury found Anderson guilty of forgery and other offenses.

Here is another case of a good man gone wrong. For years Anderson battled to put the Anti-Saloon league over, and succeeded. He was at the front in every campaign the organization entered. Nebraska felt the influence of the league, when in 1916 the state prohibitory amendment was passed. Two years later the nation entered the dry stage, chiefly because the Anti-Saloon league applied its own brand of "practical" politics at Washington. It was the policy of the league to fight the devil with

So Anderson should have known the ins and outs of the game as well as any man. The league raised funds and used the money in waging political battles, and made no secret of it. Considerable of the money expended in carrying on its work has never been publicly accounted for by the league, and probably never will be. The heads of the organization know where it went, and feel it was wisely applied; and that suffices to satisfy the members.

With this knowledge in his possession, Anderson stands in a worse light than would an inexperienced person caught in the same predicament. He knew hetter than he acted, and the penalty of exposure is the more just because of this fact.

# ANCIENT CUSTOM STILL HONORED.

One of man's first discoveries was that he was not personally equal to combat with all other brutes. Some of them he could vanquish but more he could not. He therefore provided himself with what has come to be known in the vernacular as "the odds." That is, he provided himself with a weapon. First he had only a club, or maybe a pointed stick. Later he tied a dornick to the club, and so on through the march of ages the improvement has gone on. Some inventive genius among the early races doped out the bow and arrow, providing a missile weapon. Roger Bacon in his day gave the world gunpowder, and American inventors provided repeating weapons. The cycle may not yet be complete, but it has gone

Now the great problem is to get men to disarm. to quit gun-totin' and settle down to the condition of quiet, orderly members of society. One of the great difficulties, an obstacle almost insurmountable, is that the powers that prey are invariably armed. Decent citizens feel they must arm in self-protection. Expert criminologists have advised against this, pointing out the great advantage the criminal has because of his familiarity with the use of weapons. Some deplorable tragedies have followed attempts to meet a bandit at his own game. But this does not encourage men tamely to submit to outrage. No romance of the film is complete without a

hand-to-hand fight of some sort, and one of the greatest of heroes is the two-gun fighter. Very few of these ever lived; here and there a man became really expert as a two-gun handler, but seldom was there a real fighter of the sort. The old-time gun fighter rarely fired more than once; he did not need to. That race is almost extinct, but it has been succeeded by the hop-head variety of gunman, who carries his "gat" in a shoulder holster, and shoots when his victim is not looking. The only chance he takes is that he may be caught by the police, and this is remote.

Senator Copeland of New York asks that a icense fee of \$100 be collected for every pistol old, and that cartridges be priced at not less than 11 each. This would disarm the peaceable, but would have no effect on the criminal, who seldom ouys either weapon or ammunition. It is easier to steal them. Missouri passed a model law a few years ago, designed to discourage gun-totin,' but bandits still swarm in St. Louis and Kansas City. Nebraska has an excellent law against carrying concealed weapons, but it rarely enforced against any-

What is to be the end? An inspired frontier reporter once wrote of the "sad, sweet note of the six shooter, cooing to its mate in the night," and that note still is heard where men of peace love silence. A new deal is desirable, and it might be well to make it as dangerous to carry a weapon as it is to carry a flask of hooteh.

WHEN THE CALENDAR WABBLES. One of the little questions that comes up to puzzle folks every fourth year is, "Why is leap year?" The easiest answer is "because." That does not tell the whole story, however. In the beginning men reckoned time by the rising and setting of the sun, and divided the year into two seasons, summer and winter. Spring and autumn were added in due process, and then months came to perplex and in some ways annoy. First these were based on the moon, producing a year that varies, as in the Jewish calendar from 353 to 385 days in length. Finally, Julius Ceasar, bothered by the confusion into which the reckoning of time had fallen, had prepared what is known as the Julian calendar. Under this the year was divided into twelve months, with a total of 365 days. An odd quarter of the day was carried on, him, but you should think of the rest and each four years a day was added to February.

This decision, reached in the year 46 B. C., served very well until 1582, when the discovery was made that the calendar was all out of kelter. Easter that year fell on March 11, instead of March 21, as it should have. Pope Gregory set his astronomers and mathematicians to the job of straightening out the tangle. They did it by dropping ten days. The pope also made a new rule for leap years, or bisextile, and ordered that until 2000 comes around no year ending a century shall be other than the com-

This fairly well balances the reckoning, yet leaves something just short of accuracy. The "tropical,, year, which means the time of the earth in passing between the two equinoxes, is 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, 46 seconds in length. The "sidereal" year, or the one used for calendar purposes, because it means the time taken for the earth's journey around the sun, is 365 days, 6 hours, 9 minutes, 9 seconds long. The "anomalistic" year, which means the time for the sun to return to any given point on its orbit, is 365 days, 6 hours, 13 min-

However, few of us need worry about the calenthe World Court, because he is against the the change from the 12-hour and the that the change from the 12-hour and the League of Nations. He is no 10-hour shifts causes an increase in difference between the civil and natural year will amount to one day in about fifty centuries, or looking ahead from now, February will have 30 days in 6924, which will be soon enough.

The declaration by Assistant Prohibition Com-missioner Jones that his evidence agents often have to drink liquor is likely to cause a rush of applicants. It might be well to have ambulances handy to take care of those injured in the crush.

Frank A. Vanderlip recently declared this to be "a nation of financial illiterates." Recent financial history is so involved that the average citizen is to be excused if he is ignorant on that subject.

As a witness before the senate committee Miss Lape seems to think more highly of her rights as an American citizen than some of the inquisitive senators do of their privileges as senators.

Congressmen should take due note that the people are doing a little congressional investigating themselves these days, and the report is due the Tuesday after the first Monday in Nevember.

The main trouble with a law limiting campaign expenditures is that it is practically impossible to define campaign expenditures, even if they are pos-

Now they are using gasoline fumes to hasten the golden color of California citrus fruits. Gasoline fumes have often hastened the golden harp period.

If the winner of the Bok prize is summoned to appear before the senate committee he will probably in some lines, he sure has some weak feel that he earned it before he gets through with

The inventor of the coffee percolator died the other day. The coffee speculator still lives, however.

At any rate the pipeline leading into Washington seems to be pretty effectually clogged.

And now it appears that it is high time to pu an end to government by propaganda.

Speaking of filling station service, Sinclair and Doheny seem to be there and over.

# Homespun Verse Robert Worthington Davie

# DOWN THE TRAILS OF YESTERDAY.

When I hasten through the country, And I see the birds awing. And the hene go clucking gatly Jest as though they lived to sing; When I hear the cattle mooing And I see the calves at play I rejoice and go a dreaming

When I hear the crickets warble When the sun has slipped from sight, And the whippoorwill is giving His glad welcome to the night And the farmer boy is whistling In his truly merry way-

Down the trails of Yesterday

I rejoice and go a-dreaming Down the trails of Yesterday. When I hear the call to supper,

And the boys and dad go in.

Down the trails of Yesterday.

When I hear the milk pails banging I'm down on the farm agin: When around the hearth they gather While the evening wafts away-I rejoice and go a-dreaming

### "The People's Voice"

invited to use this column freely for expression on matters of public

### Swats at O'Neill's Munchausen.

Farragut, las-To the Editor of The inty, were migrating to the larger fish of such great sagacity, so we to write to some of these carp and have them come over.

Now, laying all jokes aside, we N. E. VAN SICKLE.

is enjoyed by most of us. I think that for a good, sensible paper you are letting someone from the O'Neill terhat point. And the front page posi- trol. and all the other trash along that line that you have handled. It would that it is time to call a halt. I suppose the man from O'Neill gets

JOHN F. GEORGEMAUER.

The Omaha Bee: I am an old hay

father took his family to Wisconsin: California, Canada and Nebraska. I voted for "Teddy" in California. My father was a ship builder: what

owner lives in a fine house in town

and six girls we raised in good shape.

What they did not raise they did that a plume bearer is permitted to

### "Polly Titian" on Johnson.

Omaha Bee: Senator Johnson is out From the Christian Science Monitor: When he gets that he starts

were counted he was found a few short. Then the convention proceeded to do just what his lodge or any other society would have done. That was to offer him second place, which be impossible to determine for Then they turned to that fine, sturdy New Englander, Calvin Coolidge.

He did not want it, as he thought he had another job in Massachusetts that was not complete yet; but when they pressed the call he said: "I am in the hands of the party and if they think I can better serve them and the country there I will accept."

And, by virtue of that splendid frait of his, of leyal obedience, he is today president of the United States, the very profiler. the very position that Senator Johnson is now striving for, but which he would now hold had he been willing to obey and serve instead of dictating or bossing the party. So today it matters not what his abilities may be

oints that overbalance them. How he or any one else can figure ut that he has any claim on the party vote for that office at this time

I say his Cleveland speech ought to settle his case for good and plenty. When he gets out his tar can and brush and mud paddle and classes Henry Ford and Calvin Coolidge with Red Bill Haywood and Emma Goldman, he is not only going too far-it sure is the limit. Then he rakes the politicians—they are surely bad worse than that. POLLY TITIAN.

# Rambles.

A couple of tourists passing through Georgia came across a road of whose destination they were uncertain. See ing an old negro woman on a porch, they called to her. "Auntle, can you tell us where this road goes?" She gazed thoughtfully at the wind-ing country road, and took her pipe out of her mouth long enough to enlighten them. Well, honey," she said, "hit goes fust one place and then another

NET AVERAGE PAID CIRCULATION for December, 1923, of

THE OMAHA BEE 

Sunday ........80,795 Does not include returns, lett-overs, samples or papers spoiled in printing and includes no special sales or free circulation of any kind.

V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of January, 1924.
W. H. QUIVEY,
(Seal) Notary Public

# "From State and Nation"

-Editorials from Other Newspapers-

### Good Sense, But Doubtful "Politics."

From the Minneapolis Tribune. Senator Oscar Underwood of Ala- now. Your issue of the 14th bama ought to be careful not to get Omana Sec. 10th the land of the second of the really has hope of landing the up to the senate to either act or o'Neill, Neb., to the effect that carp if he really has hope of landing the up to the senate to either act or democratic nomination for the presi- keep still. er lakes down about Chambers, Holt dency. Up to the present moment it county, were migrating to the larger has looked as if the plum would fall lakes some 20 miles distant, through to a man who tries to make the rank politician who tries to play politics the deep snows of the valley. Now, and file believe two plus two is three with the Mellon tax plan is barking we people over here in good old Iowa instead of a man who is willing to up the wrong tree. Perhaps, but people over here in good old Iowa and file believe two plus two is willing to up the wrong tree. Perhaps, but instead of a man who is willing to up the wrong tree. Perhaps, but Its springs, rills and rocks admit that two plus two is four and they have to bark up some tree, don't And its acres of green pasture. stand on that fact as a campaign they?

We have in mind a speech Senator We will meet them at the train and Underwood made the other day in pay their railroad fare and take them Cleveland. Speaking in the capacity not only must the modern school be where we can introduce them to some of their kith and kin where they will never have to go afoot any more.

We would also implore you to give us the name of your correspondent in said town of O Neill that we may correspond with him and find out all about those carp and, if possible, introduce them into our town and community.

Speaking in the capacity for the presidence of the presidency, he let it be known that he is not one of those who think tax reduction can go along with the payment of a general soldier bonus. In this particular his democratic mind parts company with the minds of William Jennings Bryan and other "deserving democrats."

Because he is of the opinion that life. Maybe he took it through the o our deep river—the Nishnabotna— of an avowed candidate for the presi-

tax reduction is the great need of arm. Now, laying all jokes aside, we would like to find out the outcome of that fishy experience of the man who could get by with such a funny story, N. E. VAN SICKLE. N. E. VAN SICKLE. expansion of government activities dential ring. "He has lost so many Herrick, S. D.,—To the Editor of except in such cases as may be absorbat way stready," is the explana-The Omaha Bee: While it is true lutely necessary to the general wel-that a little nonsense now and then fare, and not merely desirable in the judgment of this or that group. The "Just as we thought we had con-Alabaman is disturbed about the quered the air," says Menter Brown etting someone from the O'Neill teritory make a fool of you and your reaching out of the government into tone of voice, "Hi Johnson exploded in And every woman her part paper, with all the yarns coming from new channels of supervision and contact that point. And the front page positrol. With 548,000 civilian employes tion you are giving the stuff is more than we can figure out. Talking crows, pet fish, fur frogs, moving pike appropriating about one eighth of the man worrying about paying his in-

that it is time to call a halt.
"Bureaucracy," he says, "has been not surprise us to see such stuff in The Penn Gritt or the Saturday Blade, but we do look for something different in a paper of The Omaha Bee's with it long prior to the fall of that sage advice Ole Buck hand standing.

with it long prior to the fall of that sage advice Ole Buck hand empire. Bureaucracy has added peril through the Harvard Courier. to our own republic, not alone in the establishment of a government of buso much per line for all you print and so it is a source of revenue for reaucracies, or in the enormous tax health conditions in the United States burdens, or in the loss to constructive senate must be improved. It notes industry of thousands of ablebodied that every time a grafter is men and women, but in the weapon before it for investigation he gets afforded the political party in power sick. with its legion of henchmen securely

pending proposals for further addi-tions to the already swollen functions a large part of the added costs will

tional citizens, or for communities in what uncertain factor, however, and

practical in his discussion of these greater satisfaction felt by the work-things to limn himself forth as a parers, they have found means of savers, ty prophet when a political campaign ing, despite the slightly lower wage is near at hand. If he were less sen- scale which automatically followed fenced with a stone wall. Five boys and six girls we raised in good shape. candidate, and it is all too frequent from Bethlehem, Pa., comes the re-

# York, Neb .- To the Editor of The Eight-Hour Day in the Steel Industry

It seems generally agreed that it is all six cylinders working in high to now only a matter of time before the criticize the administration for everyeight-hour shift becomes practically utes, 48 seconds long. The first of these years will be 44 minutes, 56 seconds short of a full 366 days in leap year, the second is 36 minutes, 36 seconds over.

| A shrewd politician is one who can the fact that while it for the fact that the law of the fact that while it for the fact that the law of the fact that while it for the fact that the law of the fact that the law of the fact that while it for the fact that the law of the fact that the law the League of Nations. He is no more against the latter than I am, but he does not seem to see any difference between helping arbitrate a trouble between neighbors A and B than helping A beat up B. Yet he once had great hopes of The Hague peace plan, as backed by ex-President Roosevelt; but this is sure a little in advance of that plan, so why should advance of that plan, so why should advance of that plan, so why should ing which the shorter working hours e oppose it?

My opinion is that it is because he noticeable a remarkable change for wants to be president. Well, says one, he has just as much right to be president or to try to be as anyone. Generally speaking, that is true; but, with them. So obvious is this, espe under the present condition, I am out cially in the case of most American Four years ago he was out for the these latter feel certain that there is virtually no chance that the former

Those officials who have given their opinions of the changed conditions believe, in most instances, that it wil least a year what is the real cost of the change. Notwithstanding this Judge Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the board of the United States Stee corporation, summed up the results for President Coolidge the other day by saying that it had increased the cost of production 10 per cent. He also has expressed the view, however that with greater efficiency and inter est of the workers which have ready manifested itself, together w the new inventions which are almoshorter hours, makes it probable that



**Energy Wasted** 

Money Wasted.

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The Chaha National Bank Farnam al 17 th St.

On the Nebraska Press Reading in a Helpful Hints depart-See the eastern sky aglow ment that by cutting the end off a With the rays of God's heaven Christmas horn a serviceable funnel Walting, on Nebraska to best ould be obtained. Lew Shelley opens I think we are most favored the editorial columns of the Fairbury inquire: "What the Sam Scattering the glorious sunshine Hill goes a man want with a funnel On this our blessed land.

Editor Gardner of the Wayne Demofrom a reputation for two straight thinking crat asserts that Mr. Bok has put it Its long reaching vistas

The Pierce Call insists that the Its hills and its valleys

LISTENING IN

John Rhoades of the Blair Enter-

Because he is of the opinion that life. Maybe he took it through the With the nations in commotion

"Just as we thought we had con- In the center of the union

The Holdrege Citizen says a poor man's idea of a good joke is a rich

"If you go to a barber shop to get your shoes shined, don't kick if your Germany was honeycombed wife hires her sewing done,

The Fremont Tribune insists that

or of hay My bureaucracy if one or more of the bureaucracy if one or more of the care of than everybody else.

The Grand Island Independent has it figured out that people will never be satisfied until everybody has more than everybody else.

of government are approved.

Something must be left for addi
Aside altogether from this some My father was a ship builder, what he did not know about farming would fill a book.

The way to help the farmers is just to leave them alone. They come to town and buy canned goods that they have a fatal weakening of its moral fiber and an undermining of its sense of direct responsibility.

Senator Underwood is rather too. Senator Underwood is rather too ooo,000, indicating that, with the crowd out a real horse in a political to the employer, the worker and the community. In South Chicago there reparations commission with the simple fact that attending dinners here bas been a great advancement in ple fact that attending dinners here. among the foreign elements employed finances. All the commissioners got in the mills. And so on throughout out of their work during the past four the entire field. On all sides the reor five years was indigestion.—Toledo

# Nebraska

Walting, on Nebraska to bestow,

And view the landscape o're, With its mystical folk-lore, Its lakes and its rivers So beautiful to see.

Are good enough for me. With its grazing herds and flocks, Its broad rolling prairies So lovely in the morn, The shimmering, waving, wheat fields

And rows of ripening corn.

And the world so full of hate, We should thank our Heaven

For giving us this state, Where there is peace and plenty All around to see;

So joyous and so free.

The center of God's heart To keep this as God's country

To preserve his high ideals From being trampled in the So! Here's to Nebraska The state I love the best

Painted in the west; And traveling is great But when it comes to living There's no place like our state RHODA B. SEARS.

# Center Shots

was slipping south has lots of folowers now .- Dallas News.

any testimony as immaterial.-Ohio

The man who first called them easy payments was a poor judge of adjeclives .- Shreveport Journal.

The more you study mankind, the the poorhouse .- Trinidad Picketwire. dent of Nicaragua. But then, Nicaragua is a small country .- Jacksonville

ons and Americanization and there doesn't improve the world's

Abe Martin



Very few people know that t axophone is a very ancient music instrument, an' if it wuzn' fer slu gish, close up dancin' it never cou have come back. Miss Fern Meo says she allus hates a holiday 'cau she can't git in th' jewelry store git her wrist watch fixed.

# The Spice of Life

"Why is a strong man like 3 found begging?"
"Ah, madam, it is the only profe, sion in which a gentleman can a dress a beautiful lady without t formality of an introduction Toronto Telegram.

"Is that play finished you we

"Has it been produced yet?"
"Yes, that's what finished it."—Bo on Transcript.

"How are your new false teeth? "Best thing in the world to man keep his mouth shut."-Lou ille Courier-Journal You'd like to travel and perhaps yo

Because you're kept at home-b you forget. A daily ride Earth gives to everyon And once a year a trip around th sun.

"What must I talk about to a last please her 'Her beauty!" "And if she has none?"
"About the plainness of others.

Turin Pasquino The reaper has harvested Ansel M

And buried him deep under groun He called his dear helpmate Before carefully looking around

When in Omaha

# Illinois Central System Shows Why Railroads Are Interested in Tax Revision

Proposals for reductions and readjustments of federal tax levies have been made. While there may be differences of opinion as to method, there can be no doubt about the wisdom of lightening and equalizing this burden of govern-

mental expense which is felt by every person in the country. This tax burden is borne by those who often do not realize that they pay taxes at all. It has been estimated that one dollar out of every six spent by consumers goes for taxes-federal, state, county and municipal. Taxes, because they enter into the cost of production, are in the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the rent we pay.

Every business man who has any control over his selling prices adds his taxes to his operating costs, then not infrequently adds a little more to make it even money and passes the total on to his patrons. Taxes upon buildings are paid in the end by rents. Taxes paid by manufacturers and distributors are passed on to the consumer. As tax burdens increase the cost of living they create a demand for increased wages, and increased wages in turn are reflected in higher prices paid by everyone. Taxes are a part of the cost of conducting every form of business, and they inevitably form a part of the prices established for the goods or services produced in every field of productive industry. Regardless of who pays the taxes in the first instance, in the end they are paid by farmers, business men, mechanics, laborers and all other classes of our

population. Indirect taxes are paid by more persons than direct taxes. Among those who pay indirect taxes are the patrons of the railroads. Taxes the railroads pay are a part of the cost of supplying transportation service and must be borne by the public in freight and passenger rates. Railway taxes in 1923 amounted to \$330,000,000, 5.2 per cent of their gross earnings, or almost exactly \$3 for every man, woman and child in the United States. But the \$330,000,000 paid by the railroads in 1923 for taxes represented only their direct taxes. Indirect taxes enter into the costs of all materials and supplies used by the railroads in their operation and are necessarily passed on to their patrons.

There are now extant more than \$12,000,000,000 of tax-exempt securities. Aside from the fact that such securities allow part of our population to evade income taxation, the attractiveness of such investment has caused railway investment to appear unattractive by comparison. To the extent that the ready sale of tax-exempt securities encourages civic extravagances, it increases taxation in general and tends to saddle undue burdens upon the public. To the extent that such sale helps to keep capital out of the railroads it prevents the railroads from installing the modern facilities that increase efficiency and make possible reductions of rates.

A way must be found to change the channel of investment of owners of large incomes from tax-exempt securities into productive enterprises where the investors assume some of the risks. If it is necessary to lower substantially the surtaxes of those who have large incomes in order to encompass this change, it is in the interest of all of us to lower them. Let us not make the mistake of injuring all classes of our people by trying to punish one class.

Our purpose in making this statement is to point out to our patrons that taxes are reflected in the rates which they pay for transportation and to urge them to help themselves and also help us by putting forth every proper effort to bring about a reduction in taxes. We believe that few persons realize the extent to which freight and passenger rates are affected by direct and indirect

- Constructive criticism and suggestions are invited.

C. H. MARKHAM. President, Illinois Central System